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# YOUR ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA





## ***WHAT IS THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS ?***

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency that was created by the 1970 Illinois Constitution to supervise the registration of voters and the administration of elections throughout the State. The Board's purpose is to serve as the central authority for all election law, information and procedures in Illinois.



## ***HOW DOES THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS HELP YOU ?***

One of the major objectives of the State Board of Elections is to make election procedures uniform throughout the State so that every voter and every governmental unit has access to the same information and the same rules concerning voting procedures.

Illinois is one of the states that holds the greatest number of elections each year. Because there are nearly 6,400 local governmental units, election laws have been interpreted on local levels as circumstances arise. As a result, election procedures and forms have varied throughout the State. Uniformity of information and application of the law should eliminate many of the allegations of voting irregularities that now occur.

The State Board serves as both an information and resource center on elections

for governmental bodies. The Board sponsors continuing education and information programs in all areas of Illinois for election officials and voters to further its aim of ensuring uniformity and fairness in all elections.



## **HOW DOES THE BOARD WORK WITH LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES?**

The Board works closely in all parts of the State with local election authorities by answering questions, providing uniform instruction manuals, and by helping resolve election disputes. Ongoing training programs are conducted with local election authorities, encouraging an exchange of ideas and information to refine the State's election process.



## **WHAT ABOUT ELECTION REFORM ?**

Reform can be brought about, in great part, through clarification of the election law. In addition, recommendations for new laws, procedures, and forms, etc., come to the Board from its own election specialists, local election authorities, and a wide variety of other sources.

Because the State Board of Elections is the only organization that has state-wide jurisdiction, it is in a unique position to recognize the differences in election terminology and procedures

in various parts of the State. This overview makes it possible for the Board to gather information and offer recommendations to the General Assembly and the Election Laws Commission to simplify and bring uniformity to the election process.



### ***HOW DOES THE BOARD DEAL WITH VOTING IRREGULARITIES?***

All claims of irregularity or fraud in any Illinois election presented to the Board are carefully and thoroughly investigated. Most often, clarification of rules resolves the question. The Board is not a police agency but has the power to investigate and refer apparent violations to law enforcement agencies. The Board's role is to see that procedures provided for by state law are complied with at a local level.



### ***WHAT ABOUT CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE ?***

The State Board of Elections supervises the administration of the Illinois Act to Regulate Campaign Financing—Public Act 78-1183. To help election authorities and those affected by the Act, the Board conducts information and education programs that provide assistance in the interpretation of the law. The Board also serves as a center, where information compiled under the Act is made available to interested parties.





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**THE BOARD'S FUNCTIONS INCLUDE:**

**Adoption of rules and regulations to clarify and improve the election process in Illinois**

**Supervision, inspection and review of all election and registration processes in the state**

**Preparation and distribution of uniform manuals of instruction and other materials to election authorities**

**Preparation and circulation of canvasses of primary and general election returns filed with the Board**

**Determination of validity and receipt of nominating petitions and certificates of nomination**

**Dissemination of information and counsel on elections**

**Investigations and hearings of election complaints and problems**

**Recommendation of new legislation and evaluation of pending legislation to the Election Laws Commission and the Illinois General Assembly**

**Approval of voting machines and devices for use in the state**

**Development and administration of education programs for election authorities, candidates and the general public**

**Determination of validity of petitions submitted by popular initiative for constitutional amendments**

**Certification of ballot forms for constitutional amendments and other statewide referenda**

**Proclamation of election results**

# **STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

If you have any questions on election laws or procedures, call the State Board of Elections. Election specialists are available by telephone, or upon request, representatives will call on you.

**AUTHORITIES ON ILLINOIS ELECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE AS SPEAKERS FOR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOL GROUPS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

**100 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312)435-6440**

**1020 South Spring Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
(217) 782-4141**



## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**Franklin J. Lunding, Jr., Chairman  
William L. Harris, Vice-Chairman  
Don W. Adams, Member  
Michael E. Lavelle, Member**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Dr. Ronald D. Michaeison**